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Livelihood & Food Security
Technical Assistance

Quarterly Report #5
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BACKGROUND

The Livelihood and Food Security Technical Assistance (LIFT) project is designed to work in close collaboration with US Government (USG) agencies, implementing partners, and other key players to integrate sustainable, market-driven livelihoods strengthening into food and nutritional security interventions. LIFT aims to heighten the impact of work done through USAID, PEPFAR, Feed the Future, USDA, CDC, and the Peace Corps, as well as local governments, civil society, and the private sector. LIFT's ultimate goal is to support the food security of vulnerable households by improving their livelihoods and economic circumstances.

The USAID Global Health Bureau's Office of HIV/AIDS (OHA) established the LIFT project as an Associate Award under the FIELD-Support Leader with Associates (LWA) Cooperative Agreement, managed by AED. LIFT is a five-year project (2009-2014) that draws together leading organizations with expertise in the areas of economic strengthening and food security. Under LIFT, AED partners with Care International (CARE) and Save the Children US (SAVE) as well as a robust group of resource organizations, to provide high-impact technical assistance to USG country teams and their implementing partners, and to offer leadership and strategic learning to the field of livelihood strengthening and food security as a whole. LIFT works in partnership with FANTA-2 (Food And Nutrition Technical Assistance project), and is in the process of establishing relationships with other key USG projects and initiatives around food security.

LIFT will improve vulnerable households' ability to access food through market-led sustainable livelihoods strengthening interventions, thereby leveraging the investments that the US Government, local governments, multilateral agencies, bilateral donors, civil society organizations and the private sector have made toward increasing food security.

ACTIVITIES

1. Global

1.1. M&E Technical Assistance

1.1.1 MERG Indicators

LIFT updated and expanded on information regarding MERG output indicator 3, “Referral from Food Security Services to HIV Clinical Services.”

1.2. Technical Assistance Tools & Resources

1.2.1 Livelihoods and Food Security Conceptual Framework

Throughout the quarter, LIFT partners continued work on a livelihood and food security conceptual framework that can be used to understand and explain the interaction between economic strengthening and food security. Gary Woller has been spearheading the framework development, with input from a range of LIFT stakeholders. A draft framework narrative has been developed and circulated for comments to stakeholders. Currently, the framework is undergoing revision based on stakeholder comments.

1.2.2 Economic Strengthening for Food Security e-Platform

LIFT continued work on the Economic Strengthening for Food Security (ESFS) Platform, a web-based platform for LIFT and related projects to share knowledge and learning around integrating economic strengthening and food security interventions for improved household well-being. The AED team coordinated the development of a proposed graphic design for the site and sought feedback and input from various stakeholders.

1.2.3 Resource Library

LIFT has continued to develop and expand its Resource Library by incorporating several new key documents identified by research staff and partners, as well as colleagues in the field.

1.2.4 LIFT Technical Assistance Services Menu

LIFT continued work on a summary checklist of possible TA activities geared towards USG missions. This will be finalized and act as a menu of services to support in-country and global USG-funded technical assistance initiatives.

1.2.5 Livelihoods Intervention Design and Evaluation Analysis Tool

LIFT has been in discussions regarding possible collaboration opportunities with the Food Economy Group (FEG), which has been on the leading edge of livelihoods-based food security information systems, policy analysis and complex-process facilitation services for over a decade, contributing to the efforts of a broad range of decision makers in the humanitarian and development community. The LIFT team sees potential for collaboration with FEG in the planned activities in Swaziland and Nigeria, including the integration of IDEAS (Intervention Design and Evaluation Analysis Sheet) in Nigeria. IDEAS is designed for specific applicability to PLWHA and OVC households; allows communities to plot their own household vulnerability levels, household livelihood needs, and current livelihood interventions or services available; allows communities to identify critical gaps and linkages or interventions needed to fill these; and allows communities and clinics to work more closely together.

1.2.6 Livelihoods and NACS Linkage Model

LIFT further refined and developed the concept paper for USAID/OHA, “Strengthening NACS Wraparound Services Targeting Livelihoods and Food Security” that was submitted last quarter for consideration for plus-up funds. The concept describes an activity across three East African countries to demonstrate how to create effective linkages between clinic-based NACS programs and livelihood support services. In this quarter, LIFT refined the narrative, expanded the budget, and developed slides on the concept for OHA.

1.2.7 USG Household Economic Strengthening & Livelihood symposium

LIFT began conversations with USAID about offering support to a Household Economic Strengthening 101 symposium for interested parties in the US government to provide technical capacity building on effective livelihood strategies. The event is planned to take place in the next quarter, and to draw participation from USAID, PEPFAR, PL109-95 and other USG bureaus and initiatives.

1.3. Knowledge Generation & Sharing Technical Assistance

1.3.1 Livelihoods and HIV/AIDS presentation

LIFT contributed to the development of a presentation to the United States Global AIDS Coordinator Goosby on “Establishing High Impact Program Models and Replicable Tools for Livelihood Support,” with feedback from Save the Children and CARE.

1.3.2. Symposium on Enhancing the Nutritional Outcomes of Agricultural Interventions

The LIFT team attended a symposium on enhancing the nutritional outcomes of agricultural interventions on November 1, 2010. AED, in collaboration with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, hosted "Deepening the Dialogue: Agriculture and Nutrition Collaboration to Enhance Global Food Security." LIFT Project Director, Margie Brand, was one of the facilitators at this high-level, interactive symposium, with the objective of gaining a greater understanding of effective food security and livelihood strategies.

1.3.3 HAMED/POWG Working Group

SAVE attended the SEEP Network’s joint HIV/AIDS and Microenterprise Development (HAMED)/ Poverty Outreach (PO) Working Group meeting in November. Participants provided input into HAMED’s revised mandate (now anticipated to cover the integration of Microenterprise Development (MED) and health broadly) and its 2011 plan for activities and deliverables, which are still being finalized. SAVE will continue to explore opportunities for LIFT to draw from, and contribute to, efforts that advance the learning on effective ways to integrate livelihoods, HIV/AIDS and food security.

1.3.4. UNAIDS Presentation

CARE representative Leah Berkowitz Nchabeleng presented at the UNAIDS panel titled “HIV, Food Insecurity and Social Protection” on December 8, 2010 on the LIFT project and food/cash transfers in the context of social protection approaches as well as linkages between livelihoods and HIV prevention, treatment and care and support.

2. Country-specific

2.1. Ethiopia

In November, at USAID/Ethiopia’s request, LIFT delivered a one-day forum on LIFT’s Ethiopia livelihood assessment findings and general technical assistance on livelihood implementation to

PEPFAR's partners and stakeholders of economic strengthening (ES) programming in Ethiopia. This was the first time such a large number of ES stakeholders came together to discuss the possible approaches to economic strengthening and livelihoods in the context of HIV and AIDS, and was well-received by USAID and other participants. The LIFT field team included Benjamin Rinehart (AED), Lisa Parrott (Save the Children), Jason Wolfe (USAID/MD) as well as two local consultants, Raya Abagodu and Kebede Lulie Workneh, who had participated in the original LIFT assessment.

2.2. Swaziland

The LIFT team responded quickly to Natalie Kruse-Levy of PEPFAR/Swaziland, who requested a small assessment activity feeding into the design of larger, ongoing implementation projects in economic strengthening and food security for HIV/AIDS-affected household and households with OVC. LIFT's team of international and local consultants performed a desk review followed by a field assessment from November 29 through December 10. The LIFT field team included Benjamin Rinehart (AED) as well as consultants Ben Fowler and Joan Hall, and local consultants Patricia Musi, Silanda Silaula and Yolande Baker. The Mission is interested in follow on implementation activities, potentially with a continued LIFT presence in country as support. The findings of the report will be consolidated and sent out to stakeholders for feedback in the next quarter.

2.3. Nigeria

The LIFT team has been in communication with Lungi Okoko and Philomena Irene in the USAID Nigeria Mission to clarify and follow up on discussions about LIFT technical assistance provision in Nigeria. LIFT began assembling a team to conduct the desk assessment as well as a team for a preliminary field visit next quarter, which includes Benjamin Rinehart (AED), Lauren Hendricks (CARE), and Ntongi McFayden (Save the Children).

2.4. Namibia

LIFT continued work on incorporating stakeholder feedback into and refining the presentation of the final Namibia assessment report. Plans for next quarter include furthering discussion of potential follow-on activities with the USAID Namibia Mission.

2.5. Malawi

Kirsten Weeks has had ongoing coordination and communication with USAID/Malawi about potential LIFT TA, with initial focus on providing capacity building support to PEPFAR partners.

2.6. Kenya

Project Director Margie Brand met with Ruth Tiampati from the USAID/Kenya Mission to discuss potential LIFT TA provision opportunities in Kenya in November.

2.7. South Africa

The USAID/South Africa Mission sought LIFT assistance with a review of their strategic plan. In addition to a general review of the document, LIFT will comment specifically on the Food Security and Livelihoods section. The Mission particularly seeks guidance on linking the NACS program to livelihoods or food security interventions, background information on household vulnerabilities, and linkage guidance for partners.

3. Operational

3.1. Communications and Outreach

- The project drafted the LIFT Communications and Knowledge Management Plan, which describes potential products for the "LIFT for Livelihoods and Food Security" Series as well as dissemination strategies and channels geared towards various audiences.
- The project continued to work on developing a dedicated web presence for LIFT, which will be housed on the ESFS website.

- CARE put forth a concept note on potential learning from existing projects within the organization that LIFT could help supplement and/or capture. LIFT has been in discussions with SAVE to identify similar opportunities for quick and cost-effective learning generation.

3.2. Project Administration and Support

- LIFT has been utilizing the Basecamp site (an online project management tool) facilitating information gathering and communication towards more effective collaboration between LIFT partners and consultants while conducting the Ethiopia and Swaziland technical assistance activities.
- LIFT signed a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) with Technoserve-Swaziland to share resources for the LIFT Swaziland assessment activity.
- LIFT issued the following contracts in the quarter:
 - LIFT Award Modification 1 fully executed, for obligation increase for work in Nigeria and global work
 - Contracts for transportation services: Ashenghe Tour and Travel in Ethiopia, Affordable Car Hire in Swaziland
 - Work Orders to James Dempsey, Raya Abagodu, Chalachew Tiruneh, Tassew Woldehanna, for technical assistance work in Ethiopia
 - Work Orders to Joan Hall, Ben Fowler, for technical assistance work in Swaziland.
 - Personal Services Contractor Agreement to Patricia Musi, Silanda Silaula, Yolande Baker, for technical assistance work in Swaziland

3.3. Learning Opportunities

- LIFT participated in the annual SEEP Conference which is a key learning and networking event in the field of microenterprise development.

3.4. Staffing

- Save the Children continues the candidate search for one full-time employee dedicated to LIFT.

3.5. Deliverables

LIFT prepared and submitted the following deliverables to USAID during the quarter:

- Quarterly Report #4 (FY2010, Quarter 4)
- Quarterly Accruals Report
- Materials supporting and further developing the PEPFAR Plus-Up Funds Concept Paper submitted in the prior quarter.
- Proposed budget realignment.

SUCSESSES

- As part of the USAID/Ethiopia assessment activity, the team developed “Livelihood Standards of Practice” which will be useful for future assessments, project planning and program review.
- The LIFT Livelihood and Food Security Framework will be considered for adoption/adaptation by the informal USAID working group on household economic security.
- The facilitator for the USAID/Ethiopia workshop noted that the presentation had the highest attendance rate of any meeting of its type (more than 30) in Ethiopia and participants participated actively in the discussion.
- LIFT successfully completed the desk review and field assessment for Swaziland technical assistance activity. PEPFAR/Swaziland was very cooperative in working towards the assessment goals.

CHALLENGES

- CARE is experiencing transition within the LIFT team as Leah Berkowitz will be transitioning to a new role within CARE and will be unable to be the project lead on LIFT. CARE is currently recruiting for Ms. Berkowitz's replacement and already has several promising candidates.
- In December, USAID announced that AED was being suspended from receiving new government funding pending the results of an investigation by the Office of the Inspector General. AED immediately opened lines of communication with LIFT partners and stakeholders, and has remained in close communication with all parties as new information becomes available. A key area of uncertainty at this point is whether LIFT will be in a position to accept add-on funding, which is crucial to the project's ability to operate effectively, particularly where offering specific on-going support to USAID country-based initiatives is concerned.

KEY LEARNING

The Ethiopia assessment debrief offered some key learning points, including:

- The importance of ensuring clarity of objectives and outputs from the beginning of a TA assignment, to improve the flow of information and the focus of the report/deliverables.
- The opportunity to share lessons and challenges around livelihoods and food security in a roundtable setting, as was done in Ethiopia, could become a product or approach that LIFT could offer in other contexts. Partners were hungry for “good practices” and “good examples of ES in the context of HIV.” This style of workshop could be further enhanced by providing case studies, tools and profiles of projects.
- Presentations to USAID/Ethiopia confirmed the value of involving representatives from a variety of sectors engaged in livelihood activities as well as those who are interested in investing in livelihoods. Collaboration across sectors is important for livelihood and food security interventions, so it is critical to provide opportunities for dialogue and learning across sectors. For example, the wrap-around programs in Ethiopia have struggled to express their intent and intended outcomes/impact. Joint planning with the BEAT office before PEPFAR invests could help clarify these points. In value chain projects, PEPFAR could articulate better what it wants to see in terms of HIV objectives so that the partners are clear on how to address HIV in the programming. LIFT is considering purposeful ways to assist USAID in creating the space where these collaborations can occur.

PLANS FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

1. Global

- Finalize and launch the Economic Strengthening for Food Security website, incorporating a dedicated section for LIFT project information and the Resource Library, among other features.
- Finalize the LIFT Workplan for Year 2.
- Continue to develop the Livelihood and Food Security Conceptual Framework, incorporating feedback from key stakeholders, and expanding on the linkages between livelihoods and food security and other relevant technical areas.
- LIFT will further expand its pool of high-quality consultants for both global and field-based technical assistance provision.

2. Country-specific

- Present findings of the Swaziland technical assistance activity to PEPFAR/Swaziland.
- Continue planning for long-term technical assistance provision with USAID/Nigeria. Finalize the SOW for and conduct an initial field-based TA activity as part of an overall TA plan.
- LIFT is discussing conducting an outreach visit to Malawi in conjunction with another field-based technical activity. LIFT will continue to work with USAID staff in Malawi to develop a plan for technical assistance activities.
- Complete input into USAID/South Africa's Nutrition Strategy.
- Continue outreach and discussions around TA needs with USAID/Kenya and USAID/South Africa.
- Finalize follow-up plans with USAID/Namibia.
- Begin discussing potential TA activities with USAID/Zambia.

ATTACHMENTS

LIFT Meeting Log - FY11 Q1

Connecting and Collaborating

Date	Topic	Attendees
10/4/2010	LIFT Swaziland meeting	Natalie Kruse-Levy (PEPFAR/Swaziland), Jason Wolfe (USAID/EGAT), Kirsten Weeks (AED/LIFT), Ben Rinehart (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT)
10/5/2010	USAID Malawi Meeting	Violet Orchardson (USAID/Malawi), Kirsten Weeks (AED/LIFT), Ben Rinehart (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT)
11/1/2010	Symposium on Enhancing the Nutritional Outcomes of Agricultural Interventions	Margie Brand (AED/LIFT) Brand, Kirsten Weeks (AED/LIFT), Benjamin Rinehart (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT), Clint Curtis (AED/LIFT)
11/1/2010 - 11/5/2010	SEEP Network Meeting	Margie Brand (AED/LIFT) Brand, Kirsten Weeks (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT), Clint Curtis (AED/LIFT)
11/4/2010	LIFT USAID Meeting	Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Sarah Sandison (USAID), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Ben Rinehart (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT)
11/4/2010	LIFT and AIDSTAR-2/Cardno meeting with USAID	Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Sarah Sandison (USAID), Emily Hughes (USAID), Gretchen Bachman (USAID), Maury Mendenhall (USAID), Casey Santiago (Cardno), Leslie Flinn (Cardno), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT)
11/7/2010-11/11/2010	LIFT post-assessment meetings with USAID/Ethiopia	Ben Rinehart (AED/LIFT), Jason Wolfe (USAID/EGAT), Lisa Parrott (AED/Save the Children), Raya Abagodu (Cons.), Tassew Woldehanna (Cons.), Renee Demarco (USAID/Ethiopia), Tsegaye Tilahun (USAID/Ethiopia)
11/9/2010	LIFT/PEPFAR Stakeholder Workshop on Economic Strengthening	Ben Rinehart (AED/LIFT), Jason Wolfe (USAID/EGAT), Lisa Parrott (AED/Save the Children), Raya Abagodu (Cons.), Tassew Woldehanna (Cons.), Kedebe Workneh (Cons.), Renee Demarco (USAID/Ethiopia), Tsegaye Tilahun (USAID/Ethiopia), 60 PEPFAR Implementing partners, USAID staff
11/9/2010	LIFT pre-planning phone call with ICAP - Swaziland	Kirsten Weeks (LIFT), Kerry Bruce (ICAP)
11/10/2010	LIFT Briefing to USAID/Ethiopia	Ben Rinehart (AED/LIFT), Jason Wolfe (USAID/EGAT), Lisa Parrott (AED/Save the Children), Raya Abagodu (Cons.), Tassew Woldehanna (Cons.), Renee Demarco (USAID/Ethiopia), Tsegaye Tilahun (USAID/Ethiopia), approximately 30 USAID staff
11/15/2010	LIFT Swaziland call	Ben Fowler (LIFT Cons.), Joan Hall (LIFT Cons.), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Kirsten Weeks (AED/LIFT), Ben Rinehart (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT), Clint Curtis (AED/LIFT)

11/15/2010	LIFT update with OHA	Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Clinton Sears (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Kirsten Weeks (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT)
11/16/2010	LIFT pre-assessment planning and call with PACT (Swaziland)	Kirsten Weeks (LIFT), Todd Malone (PACT)
11/19/2010	Value Chain Microlinks Breakfast at QED (Presentation on Value Chains and Development)	Kirsten Weeks (LIFT), other microlinks and economic practitioners
11/19/2010	CARE-LIFT Meeting	Tracy Gerstle (CARE), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
11/29/2010-12/10/2010	LIFT Swaziland Assessment	Ben Rinehart (AED/LIFT), Joan Hall (Cons.), Patricia Musi (Cons.), Benjamin Fowler (Cons.), Sabina Silaula (Cons.), numerous PEPFAR partners, government of Swaziland ministries and agencies, other NGOs and CBOs, FAP, WFP, UNICEF, Peace Corps
11/29/2010	LIFT / USAID Swaziland Meeting	Natalie Kruse-Levy (PEPFAR/Swaziland), Christopher Detwiler (PEPFAR/Swaziland), USAID, DOD and DCD staff, Ben Rinehart (AED/LIFT), Joan Hall (Cons.), Patricia Musi (Cons.), Benjamin Fowler (Cons.), Sabina Silaula (Cons.)
11/29/2010	LIFT / US Embassy briefing	Ambassador Earl Irving, US Embassy DCM, Ben Rinehart (AED/LIFT), Joan Hall (Cons.), Patricia Musi (Cons.), Benjamin Fowler (Cons.), Sabina Silaula (Cons.), Natalie Kruse-Levy (PEPFAR/Swaziland)
12/7/2010	LIFT / PEPFAR Swaziland Stakeholders Briefing	Natalie Kruse-Levy (PEPFAR/Swaziland), Ambassador Earl Irving, Ben Rinehart (AED/LIFT), Joan Hall (Cons.), Patricia Musi (Cons.), Sabina Silaula (Cons.), numerous PEPFAR partners and stakeholders
12/10/2010	LIFT / USAID Swaziland Meeting	Ben Rinehart (AED/LIFT), Joan Hall (Cons.), Patricia Musi (Cons.), Benjamin Fowler (Cons.), Sabina Silaula (Cons.)
12/13/10 - 12/17/10	LIFT Strategic Planning Meeting	Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Jason Wolfe (USAID/EGAT), Sarah Sandison (USAID), LIFT Team
12/21/2010	USAID South Africa Meeting	Nerisa Pilime (USAID/South Africa), Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Kirsten Weeks (AED/LIFT)
Key: Cons.: Consultant		